



7/6/81
EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Buenos Aires, Argentina

AJP27K

P810109-1949

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The Honorable
Paul F. Stabile
Alumni Director
Saint Meinrad Seminary
St. Meinrad, Indiana 47577

ARGENTINA PROJECT (100-0000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny
Exemption(s): _____
Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full
☐ Classify as _____ ☐ Extend as _____ ☐ Downgrade to _____
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

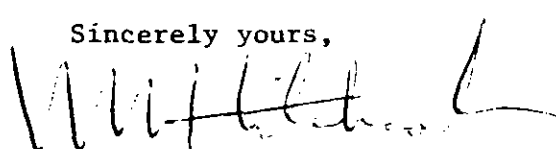
Dear Mr. Stabile:

The Ambassador and the Charge d'Affaires have asked me to reply to your letters of June 11, 1981, concerning Eduardo Federico Llosa, a detainee of the Argentine Penal System.

Mr. Llosa is being held prisoner of the National Executive Power (PEN). Under the Argentine Constitution the Executive Power has the right to detain people when the country is in a state of siege, as it has been since 1974. Although the Constitution places no explicit limit on the period such prisoners may be held, it does provide that those detained under authority of the Executive Power may apply for voluntary self-exile, i.e., the so called "right of option" to leave Argentina for another country in lieu of further detention under the Executive Power here.

We have been informed that in May, 1981, the Argentine Government denied Mr. Llosa's request for the right of option to immigrate to Switzerland. Under Argentine procedures, he must wait six months before applying again for the right of option. For this reason, the Argentine Government recently denied the Embassy's request that a U.S. immigration officer visiting Argentina in June and July be permitted to interview Mr. Llosa at his place of confinement to determine whether he is eligible to enter the United States as a refugee. We shall again ask the Argentine Government, however, for this permission so that he might be interviewed during the next visit of an immigration officer to Argentina, perhaps in December. Should a U.S. immigration officer find him eligible for refugee status, the Embassy will issue him its Certificate of Acceptability, with which he can apply to the Argentine authorities for the right of option to emigrate to the United States.

Sincerely yours,


Wilbur W. Hitchcock
Consul

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